Amendments to the Claims:

1. **(Currently amended)** An electrically-operated steering lock device having a lock shaft which is movable between a ~~protrusion~~ protruded position where a steering shaft is locked and a ~~retreat~~ retracted position where the steering shaft is unlocked, and a lock shaft moving ~~means~~ device coupled to an electric motor and serving ~~for moving the~~ to move said lock shaft, the electrically-operated steering lock device further comprising: a protrusion blocking ~~means~~ device which is electrically driven and which, when ~~the~~ said lock shaft is placed ~~at a retreat~~ in a retracted position, engages with ~~an engagement~~ a receiving portion formed in ~~the~~ said lock shaft to block protrusion of ~~the~~ said lock shaft; and a holding ~~means~~ part for holding ~~the~~ said protrusion blocking ~~means to~~ device in a position where protrusion of ~~the~~ said lock shaft is blocked.

2. **(Currently amended)** The electrically-operated steering lock device according to Claim 1, wherein ~~the~~ said lock shaft moving ~~means~~ device comprises a spring for biasing ~~the~~ said lock shaft to a ~~protrusion~~ protruded position, and an electrically-operated member which is to be engaged with an engagement recessed portion formed in ~~the~~ said lock shaft to move ~~the~~ said lock shaft to the ~~retreat~~ retracted position.

3. **(Currently amended)** The electrically-operated steering lock device according to Claim 1, wherein ~~the~~ said protrusion blocking ~~means is~~ device comprises a solenoid having a plunger which is to be engaged with ~~the engagement~~ said receiving portion formed in ~~the~~ said lock shaft.

4. **(Currently amended)** The electrically-operated steering lock device according to Claim 1, wherein ~~the~~ said lock shaft moving ~~means~~ device enables ~~the~~ said lock shaft to move to the ~~protrusion~~ protruded position when the electric motor is rotated forward, and enables ~~the~~ said

lock shaft to move to the ~~retreat~~ retracted position when the electric motor is rotated in reverse, and ~~the~~ said holding ~~means is the~~ part comprises an engagement portion formed in ~~the~~ said lock shaft, and wherein, in a state that ~~the~~ an engagement ~~with the~~ between said protrusion blocking device and said engagement portion has been released by reverse rotation of the electric motor, ~~the~~ said lock shaft is allowed to protrude by forward rotation of the electric motor.

5. **(New)** The electrically-operated steering lock device according to claim 1, wherein said receiving portion comprises a recess portion of said lock shaft, and said protrusion blocking device comprises a plunger having a flange portion that is extendable into said recess portion of said lock shaft to create the engagement of said protrusion blocking device with said receiving portion and that is engageable with said holding part to prevent retraction of said flange portion from said receiving portion.

6. **(New)** An electrically-operated steering lock device for use in locking rotation of a steering shaft, said steering lock device comprising:

a lock shaft arranged to be movable between a protruded position in which the steering shaft is locked, and a retracted position in which the steering shaft is unlocked, said lock shaft having a blocking device receiving portion formed therein;

a lock shaft movement transmission arranged to be coupled to an electric motor and serving to move said lock shaft between the protruded and retracted positions upon operation of the electric motor;

an electrically operated protrusion blocking device that is engageable with and disengageable from said blocking device receiving portion, and that is operable, when said lock shaft is placed in said retracted position, to engage with said blocking device receiving portion so as to block protrusion of said lock shaft to said protruded position; and

a holding part arranged to hold said protrusion blocking device in engagement with said blocking device receiving portion so as to prevent unintended disengagement of said protrusion

blocking device from said blocking device receiving portion, and to thereby prevent unintended protrusion of said lock shaft from said retracted position to said protruded position.

7. **(New)** The electrically-operated steering lock device according to claim 6, wherein said lock shaft moving transmission comprises a spring biasing said lock shaft toward the protruded position, and an electrically-operated member which is to be engaged with an engagement recessed portion formed in said lock shaft to move said lock shaft to the retracted position.

8. **(New)** The electrically-operated steering lock device according to claim 6, wherein said protrusion blocking device comprises a solenoid having a plunger which is to be engaged with said receiving portion formed in said lock shaft.

9. **(New)** The electrically-operated steering lock device according to claim 6, wherein said lock shaft moving device enables said lock shaft to move to the protruded position when the electric motor is rotated forward, and enables said lock shaft to move to the retracted position when the electric motor is rotated in reverse, and said holding part comprises an engagement portion formed in said lock shaft, and wherein, in a state that an engagement between said protrusion blocking device and said engagement portion has been released by reverse rotation of the electric motor, said lock shaft is allowed to protrude by forward rotation of the electric motor.

10. **(New)** The electrically-operated steering lock device according to claim 6, wherein said blocking device receiving portion comprises a recess portion of said lock shaft, and said protrusion blocking device comprises a plunger having a flange portion that is extendable into said recess portion of said lock shaft to create the engagement of said protrusion blocking

device with said blocking device receiving portion and that is engageable with said holding part to prevent retraction of said flange portion from said blocking device receiving portion.